

Application No. 10/681,341
Reply to the Office action of December 3, 2004

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0023] with the following amended paragraph:

[0023] (currently amended) ~~Although~~ The turbine shroud 26 is preferably cast with the rest of the turbine blade 20 as a single element such that the opposed bearing faces are integrally formed with the body portion 34 of the shroud 26. However, the local bearing face edge projections 28 can also be incorporated onto existing shrouded turbine blades, to reduce shroud contact face fretting and increase the contact face life. Existing cast shrouded turbine blades could easily include such edge projections 28, through a relatively minor casting tool change. Further, the edge projections 28 can also be added as a post-production add-on or blade repair process, being added to the turbine shroud using methods which are known to one skilled-in the art, such as braze or weld material build-up or other method. Accordingly the present invention also permits increases to the shroud contact face surface area to reduce contact stress between already-manufactured turbine shrouds.